of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharma) to examine the issue of span of price control (including trade margin). Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was also constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission and feedback from other stakeholders Government have formulated a draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part A - excluding pricing) which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly including pricing mechanism to be adopted.

Standardization of treatment charges in private hospitals

*360. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any initiative to standardize treatment charges and bed charges by private hospitals in the country,

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken so as to protect the interests of poor and middle class people in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Health being the State subject, it is for the respective State Governments to standardize and regulate treatment charges and bed charges by private hospitals.